



THE SERVER

HE has said: "When the world is ready by your work, I shall come."—C. Jinarajadasa.

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A Prayer to Lord Maitreya

We bow at Thy Feet, Holy One,
In silence we worship Thee, Lord of Love.
Let Thy Grace enfold us
That we may radiate Thy Presence.
We wait before Thee, Bodhisattva,—Thy children.

After uttering the prayer, remain in silence a moment, waiting to feel what the Master might wish to send out into the world.

DAVID S. M. UNGER.

The Pursuit of Beauty

Uncorrected notes of an address to members of the Order of the Star in the East, given at Sydney in August, 1919, by Mr. C. Jinarajadasa.

The reading which you listened to was chosen by myself; the hymn which you have just sung was not, and in certain ways that hymn strikes a keynote which I want to avoid for all Star members in their work as Brothers of the Star. There are many approaches to God, and the approach through the Churches is only one of them. It is of no use reproducing the Church atmosphere if we are to have anything original to give to humanity. We have in our message of the coming of the Great World Teacher something absolutely original in the way that we put it. Now we can help, I think, in the light of the inner inspiration we possess, by so constructing our meetings and our work that there is all through a spirit of great cheerfulness, of much inward joy. I know there is a great deal of inward joy in Churches and Church ceremonies. This morning I was present at St. Mary's Cathedral, and I have studied enough of Christian ritual to know something of the mystery which takes place there. It is the grace which comes from God on high and spreads to mankind, but the type of

mankind which was in that Cathedral was not outwardly very cheerful or joyful about it all. I must say it is to the credit of the Liberal Catholic Church here, whose services I have attended several times, that there is a greater spirit of joyous cheerfulness, or real praise to the Lord; but more than that even I would like at Star meetings a different spirit to prevail, a spirit which is full of brotherliness, and which is full of a quiet joy and a delight in life, for we must not think that the Great World Teacher is merely one who founds religions, for the most part telling sad truths difficult for people to live up to, but He is Himself the heart of the joyousness of the world. Was there not something of that manifest in Palestine when He gathered around Him the children; children who played, children who did not discuss philosophy and the great problems of existence, children who lived for the day and hour. Let us take a lesson from them, and try to be harps upon which invisible fingers play. And I should like Star meetings—if only we could so arrange them—to reproduce for humanity something of that atmosphere, so that when some stranger comes into a meeting of the Brothers of the Star he finds something new. Not the same thing that he finds elsewhere, but something which appeals to another part of his

spirit. For the spirit of man has not only devotion, and resignation, which was illustrated in this hymn, but also an intense inner delight in the simple beauties which we find everywhere. I hope when soon we have something of a ritual service for ourselves, a ritual for the Brothers of the Star, we may be able to change something of the tone of our Star meetings and bring something of a joyous atmosphere. And I should profoundly wish that there might be a special little ritual for the junior members of the Star, the Servants of the Star, wherein might be reflected that joyousness which draws a meeting, a gathering, so swiftly to the presence of the Great World Teacher.

We all know how children—before the gates of the prison house grow in 'round the growing boy or girl—are happy; and if you analyze them, you will find that this happiness consists in feeling well. They have healthy little bodies with a great deal of vitality, and they are interested in the things which they do, not the things they have to do in school, but the things they play at; those are to them the serious things of life which call out their full enthusiasm, and whatever calls out full enthusiasm naturally makes you happy. And children at play are happy—and also because of their happiness—if only it can be continued for them in the home, in the nursery, in the school, as in the playing field—there is within themselves an inner sunshine, a trustfulness of belief, a warmth of friendliness, so that sometimes you will find the person who is disliked by the critical friends of his own age is cheerfully accepted by the children as a chum, as a comrade. They have not all those dividing lines of what is agreeable and disagreeable; what is right or wrong in Society, or of conventional morality. They accept a man by looking a little nearer the real man as he is, and it has been well said by a French writer: "Trust to the judgment of children, because it is nearly always the judgment of God."

Our work, then, as Brothers of the Star proclaiming a great message, is to see that we bring the world nearer to us; that we do not stand apart as a sacrosanct body of people whose general attitude to the outer world is: "We are holier than thou." We want to so live our lives that we bring the world nearer to us. Now, as I have told you, every Church does something of the kind. Every body of people with any kind of religious message does indeed bring the world nearer to it. But our business—our business in the sense that the little Christ child talked of His Father's business—is to bring the world nearer to us in other ways, and one I am going to speak of this afternoon is happiness. Happiness, which seems to come so rarely to most of us, which seems reserved almost by some jealous God, Who grudgingly doles it out here and there, and yet every religion gives testimony that the heart of things is sweet, and is peace and joy. How is it, then, that we seem to have so little of it on earth? I think largely it is because we do not know how to look, where to look, and it was because of that thought that I purposely had that reading from "Elizabeth and Her German Garden", where that particular Elizabeth found so much of the happiness of life was in her garden, in cultivating her flowers, in watching their growth.

Now, there are several ways of getting happiness. I take for granted, of course, before I go on and describe

what are these ways, that you do not want to be selfishly happy, but that rather you want to be free of this general gloom and greyness of the world. The greyness which is reflected in the pavement outside, the greyness which is reflected in the attitude of so many sincerely religious people, the greyness which so predominates in many of the religions which tell you that it is the path of temptation for you to be naturally happy. Well, the first thing to do is to look for happy things, and of these—as Elizabeth in her German garden found—there are many for us in Nature. The flowers, for instance. Why is a flower a happy thing? Because the flower's life is nearer to the great life of God—not so cut off in some ways as is ours—because we erect such false notions of God. We make Him a God peculiar to one religion—rather than the God of all religions and peculiar to none. We erect all kinds of dividing lines as to whom shall be saved and who shall not. Our little thoughts are very much like the stick you put into the pool, and when you look at it the stick is not straight, but it is bent, and as we look through the medium of our human imaginations, we see God awry, and not as He is. Whereas the flower, which does not think, but lives, whose inner life is to produce itself and to make a seed, is nearer in some ways to the pure spirit of things, and therefore you will find that there is a kind of happiness in the flower as it opens, which it cannot express to you, because you have no instrument of knowledge capable of finding it; if you had, then when the sun shines you would find there is great delight in the flower, and that even when the sun does not shine it feels an inner life coming through it, so that at night it works to fulfill its part in the divine plan. There is a joyousness about the flowers and the birds and the beasts. Watch these creatures, study them, and you will find that in Nature, though there is—if looked at from one side—a fierce struggle for existence, yet at the same time there is a great playfulness, a great joyousness.

Can you not imagine the clouds as they move, taking a delight in their movement? You will find sometimes one of our musicians catches almost the inner meaning of the joyousness of the storm and reproduces for us a storm in music, and there is nothing sad about that storm, nothing of terror, yet it can be the pure heart of the storm itself as it joyously does its work in God's plan. And you can look at the rivers and enter into the mysterious life of the river, or at the mountain range, as it stands alone, lifting up its head to God. You can in subtle ways get at a joy in the world and you can look for happy things in people, deliberately make yourself look for happy things in people's characters. Not those things of which you disapprove; put them out of your mind, and look for the best in the people. Perhaps you see in someone a characteristic which is like one possessed by someone else you admire. Follow up that characteristic. See how it works in the person before you. Set yourself deliberately, in all the friends you know, to look for the best thing. The best thing is a part of the great Divine nature, and it is therefore the happy thing. Look for the happy thing, not for the unhappy thing, with your sense of feeling: "I wish you were different," but look for the happy thing by saying: "I wish I were like you in this way, or that."

Then in this modern world where there are so many ways of reproducing, look for the happy thing in the picture galleries. Every city has a picture gallery. Look on picture galleries as the sacred places where you can find something of the happiness of God. Train your imagination so that you know a good picture from a bad picture, a better picture from a good picture, and the supremely best picture of the greatest artist. You will find much written about art. Find out all that; that is as much a part of your religious life as it is to go to Church, because you can then find happiness.

(To be continued.)

Has Prohibition Achieved?

In the controversy now waging as to the effectiveness of our national prohibition laws, there is one voice which speaks with an authority that should not be disregarded. That is the testimony of Evangeline Booth, Commander of the Salvation Army.

The Eighteenth Amendment may not have reformed the sensual class of Americans who have always sufficient wealth and wit to indulge their appetites at any cost; it may not have checked, though certainly it has to some extent annoyed, those dealers in liquors who care little how many laws are broken, or lives shattered, so long as their profits are huge; it may not have cured those pitiable human wrecks whom our past evil system has allowed to sink into so degenerate a condition that only alcohol or drugs can keep them enchained in their rotting bodies; but one of the world's white angels of the slums has this to say in favor of our much abused prohibition law:

"But who better than the Salvation Army can speak of the quick and blessed results of the banishment from the streets and the hovels of the poor of this liquid fire and distilled damnation?"

"Our Social Secretaries tell us that drunkenness among the men frequenting our Hotels and Industrial Homes has almost entirely disappeared. That men who previously had not had enough money to pay their way from one day to another, now have money in the bank. In one of our Hotels there are 120 men with banking accounts of considerable amounts, who previously could not keep a dollar for twenty-four hours.

"In another hotel twenty-five men, who before prohibition could hardly muster a dime among them, have deposits ranging from \$100 to \$500. Paul Stoker, a man who drank every cent of his earnings, has saved \$700 since prohibition came into effect.

"The superintendent of one big city hospital of 1300 beds writes: 'The whole atmosphere of the place is changed. There are no delirium tremens cases now. We had just equipped a special D. T. ward, but it is never used. Accident cases have decreased one-third, and the ward patients are better clothed, with cleaner bodies, and are anxious to pay where formerly they used to dodge all financial responsibility.'

"But, oh! most glorious fact; already the greatest benefits have accrued to the children of the nation. To thousands of these vicarious sufferers *Prohibition has already restored their birthright.*

"The manager of one of the country's largest hospitals for mothers and children testifies that both doctors and nurses admit a remarkable change in child conditions. Better pre-natal care for the

mother, more food, improved clothing, more money, and, above everything else, the absence of inebriation's brutalities, are all in evidence, telling in the life's chances of these infants. Can there be a heart that is not stone but that will have granted this achievement worth while?"

Real Problems

Are Star members really trying to intelligently and courageously discover solutions to the bitter problems that beset us on every side, or are we frittering away our thoughts, time and energy on pretty but impractical bubbles?

One of the immediate problems, for instance, that knocks at our door is that there are in our own country about six million unemployed men, and a prospect of a severe winter ahead. Can we in any way help remedy such a situation as that by devising and performing some pretty ceremonial? Sometimes in talking to Star members one gains the impression that their only idea in face of the world's suffering is that it will all come right if only we spend enough time in some ceremonial or meditation.

In Regard to Study

More and more pressing and complex grow the problems in our own country as well as in the world as a whole. Our leaders have given very good advice indeed in urging that Star members consider these questions both by personal and by group study. So fast do conditions change, however, that we must study not merely books that have been standard authorities for a quarter of a century, but we need give great heed to current news as well. The Council of Service has been formed to encourage study of these questions, and we should like to see Star members taking to the idea with more vigor and application. Nor is it by any means sufficient that a group take as a text book some Theosophical essay written ten or even two years ago; such study unsupplemented by reports of present day reliable observers and workers in the world's affairs, would be likely to turn Star members into mere parrots, thinking and advocating only the conclusions of their favorite author. If study is to be of value it must be both many-sided and up to date.

Organizing Secretary for the Pacific Coast

Canada is to gain by our loss inasmuch as our Organizing Secretary, Mrs. Minnie Denman, who with her sister has inspired so many good workers in the vicinity of Pacific Grove, is going to reside in Canada. The two sisters have endeared themselves to many whom they have met and helped during their many years of service in our cause, and Canada is to be greatly congratulated on its good fortune in having drawn them there.

The Pacific Coast States of California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska and Hawaiian Islands will henceforth have as their Organizing Secretary Mrs. Marianne C. Thomas, 8th Ave., Alamosa, California. Mrs. Thomas is already known to many of the Coast Centers where she has lectured. Centers in the States named above will kindly report to her in the future.

Gleanings From Reports

DENVER, COL.—During the past year we have held the regular meetings and have had a very good attendance.

Articles from *The Server*, *The Herald of the Star* and all other available matter along current lines of religion and reconstruction have been used. We also read *Slavery and Its Nemesis*, by Annie Besant, in the October, 1920, *Theosophist*, and as a result we are now trying to interest the colored people of Denver in Star work. One educated colored lady has joined, and through her we hope for good results. Much propaganda material has been distributed, particularly when we have had national T. S. lecturers in the city. Large quantities of leaflets have been given out to the strangers who have attended the lectures. Mr. Riblet solicited and obtained eleven subscriptions to *The Herald of the Star*, sending them direct to London. The Karma and Reincarnation Legion members co-operated with Star members in collecting and sending two large boxes of clothing to the American Friends Service Committee for European Relief. Also the Star members contributed generously to the Chinese Famine Fund. We have contributed to the following funds:

Food Drafts for our Hungarian Brothers.....	\$36.00
National Headquarters Fund.....	21.00
General Expense Fund.....	40.00
Propaganda	5.00
One gift subscription to <i>The Herald</i>	3.00

Total\$105.00

LOIS A. CHAPMAN,
Local Representative.

PACIFIC GROVE, CAL.—We have thirty-four names on our membership list, but have been able to count regularly on only five at the most, but these have faithfully attended the meetings and helped as far as possible. As a Center we have placed *The Herald* in Carmel, Monterey and Pacific Grove libraries, and we are having our own back numbers from 1915 to 1920 bound to keep for the Center.

BLANCHE DENMAN,
Local Representative.

PITTSBURGH, PA.—We had weekly meetings Sunday evenings from October to May, inclusive. Distribution of the Golden Chain and the Invocation continues among school children as usual and personal work is done by our members joining other societies. It seems we might do more direct work, but we do try to develop practical ability through character building. The Center has made a special effort to help financially, and a sum of \$100 was collected and sent to *The Herald of the Star*.

JEANETTE EATON,
Local Representative.

AKRON, OHIO.—The Center voted to purchase and distribute leaflets to the addresses in the city directory. Dr. Fred Read deserves special mention for his long continued efforts at this task. For an entire year only a few days has he omitted sending a leaflet, and has sent out about 500 in all.

OSCAR BECK,
Local Representative.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The year's report looks rather meagre on paper, but perhaps if we could read the record on the higher planes it would show much faithfulness on the part of the few who have tried to keep the light burning steadily. We hold weekly meetings with an average attendance of from five to seven of late, which is an improvement. We have had special meetings on

special dates in addition. During the year we sent Food Drafts to Hungary and Austria to the amount of \$40.00. We also donated to the Salvation Army a generous package for the children's Christmas tree, also a package of canned goods, soups and jellies for their Christmas baskets. Both were gratefully received. Active interest in our branch for the present seems confined to just a few members. Our finances under such circumstances are necessarily very meagre and consist mostly of offerings from a very limited number of members instead of steady donations from all.

TERESA M. FULTON,
Local Representative.

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Star meetings were revived during the summer months, largely through the efforts of Mr. Charles Edgar, Mrs. Simson and Mr. Burton. Several public lectures were given, some on social problems presented by speakers invited from other organizations, the meetings being fairly well attended.

LOUISVILLE, KY.—The Center is held together by about eight members. This small group responded most generously to the appeal for funds to support the general office.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—This Center continues to work under difficulties, but the representative hopes for better opportunities this fall.

FORT SMITH, ARK.—This is a small but exceedingly faithful group. Meetings seem to be held regularly and efficiently, attending carefully as far as possible to all the matters that a Star Center should consider.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Various activities have continued successfully along different lines, with an occasional reunion meeting of the whole Center. Being a large city with members of various temperaments, the work has fallen naturally into several sub-groups, each with its own leader and especial aim. European Aid, an occasional social gathering, a Star banquet, sewing parties and the usual propaganda has been efficiently carried on. This Center probably does not realize what good work it has done in keeping these various groups going, so diverse in methods and interests, yet all linked by the underlying unity of trying to prepare for the coming Teacher.

Supplies For Sale (Postpaid)

A new pamphlet from Australia, especially suited to presenting the idea of the coming Teacher to the orthodox church member—"A Meditation Suggested by Handel's Oratorio", by Major Bean, price, 10c each; per dozen.....	\$1.00
Star and Cross meditation cards (the meditation suggested by Mrs. Besant), price, 2 for 5c; per dozen, 25c; 100 for.....	\$1.00
Blue note paper (envelope size with Star emblem), 100 sheets, 35c; 500 for.....	\$1.25
Regular size letter heads, 25 sheets for 50c; 50 sheets for 75c; 100 sheets for.....	\$1.25
Small note heads, half the size of the letter heads, 25 sheets for 25c; 100 sheets for.....	80c
Envelopes to match stationery, 2 for 5c; per dozen, 25c; 100 for	\$1.75
Address all letters and money orders to	

THE ORDER OF THE STAR IN THE EAST,
Star Court, 1959 Beachwood Drive,
Hollywood, Calif.